



**JUNE 15, 2005**

**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**  
**HEALTH ADVISORY**

**Salmonellosis in the Williston Area**

As of June 14, 2005, ten cases of salmonellosis from the Williston area have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. There have been four hospitalizations and one death related to salmonella sepsis in a person over 65 years of age.

An initial cluster of four cases was reported on June 2 and all of these cases had consumed precooked rotisserie chicken from a Williston retailer. All four of these isolates were serotyped as *salmonella* Typhimurium. No further reports were received until June 13, when an additional five cases were reported. A tenth case was reported on June 14. Investigations are ongoing for these last six cases.

The public health laboratory is conducting serotyping and pulse field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) (DNA fingerprinting) on all outbreak isolates. In addition MICs will be performed to determine antimicrobial susceptibility.

People with salmonella infections generally present with gastro-intestinal symptoms that include diarrhea and may include nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping and fever. The infection is generally self limited in healthy people. Salmonella sepsis occurs rarely and may result in fever, tachycardia and tachypnea and shock.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association, antimicrobial therapy is usually not indicated for uncomplicated cases. If antimicrobial treatment is being considered, consultation with an infectious disease specialist is recommended as one-third of *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates are resistant to multiple antibiotics and treatment may prolong carriage.

People presenting with symptoms suggestive of salmonella should have appropriate stool cultures performed and isolates should be sent to the public health laboratory for serotyping, PFGE and MIC testing.

Please report salmonella cases to the Division of Diseases Control by calling 1.800.472.2180. Questions regarding laboratory testing can be directed to the public health laboratory by calling 701.328.6272.

*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.*